

AUG 27 2006

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Customer Number

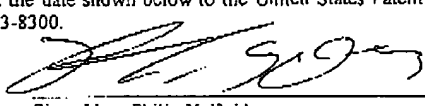
Patent
Case No.: 57630US004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: SCHUKAR, GARY W.
Application No.: 10/797758 Confirmation No.: 4235
Filed: March 9, 2004
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONVERTING A FUEL CELL MEMBRANE
WEB TO PRECISELY POSITIONED MEMBRANE SHEETS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300.
August 27, 2006 Date	 Signed by: Philip Y. Dahl

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2006. Claims 1 - 35 are pending. Claims 1 - 35 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1 - 17 are said to be drawn to a method of automatically converting a web of a thin patterned catalyst-coated membrane to separate membrane sheets for fuel cell assembly, classified in Class 29, subclass 623.1;
- II. Claims 18 - 35 are said to be drawn to an apparatus for automatically converting a web of a thin patterned catalyst-coated membrane to separate membrane sheets for fuel cell assembly, classified in Class 29, subclass 729.

Election

In response, Applicants elect Group I without traverse. Applicants further elect the species represented by claim 3.

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Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

August 27, 2006

Date

By



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